

## Utah Statewide Scores on The Iowa Tests

January 11, 2005

Utah State Office of Education



Utah students recently scored above average on a nationally norm-referenced test.

The Iowa Tests<sup>®</sup> were administered to Utah students in grades 3,5,8, and 11 at the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year. The Iowa Tests are nationally standardized, norm-referenced tests that provide a comparison of Utah student achievement with the achievement of a nationally representative group of students. At each grade and in each test content area, Utah students obtained Iowa Test scores that are above the national average.

The Iowa Tests are norm-referenced tests (NRT). These are standardized tests for which the resulting scores are interpreted in terms of comparisons made to a specific group, such as a national sample of students of the same grade. Students' achievement on The Iowa Tests is compared to the achievement levels of a nationally representative sample of students who took The Iowa Tests in 2000.

The Iowa Tests are published by The Riverside Publishing Company and are developed by the faculty and professional staff at The University of Iowa. The *Iowa Tests of Basic Skills*<sup>®</sup> (ITBS<sup>®</sup>) measure academic achievement in reading, language, math, social studies, and science for kindergarten through grade 8. The *Iowa Tests of Educational Development*<sup>®</sup> (ITED<sup>®</sup>) measure educational achievement in reading, language, math, social studies, and science for grades 9 through 12. Both the ITBS and the ITED were administered to Utah students for the first time this school year, replacing the *Stanford Achievement Test, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition* (SAT 9). Any direct comparison between this years' Iowa Test scores and last years' SAT 9 scores would be inappropriate.

Current Utah legislation requires the administration of a norm-referenced test to students in grades 3,5, 8, and 11. The Iowa Tests are an important element of the Utah Performance Assessment System for Students.

### Statewide Percentile Ranks on The Iowa Tests

	Grade 3	Grade 5	Grade 8	Grade 11
Number of students tested	36,796	35,856	36,153	33,740
Reading	64	63	62	62
Language	55	58	54	56
Mathematics	57	59	57	58
<i>Core Total</i>	59	59	57	60
Social Studies	65	61	52	60
Science	69	69	64	65
<i>Total Composite</i>	65	64	58	61

#### Notes

- The Core Total Score represents an average of the Reading Total, Language Total, and Mathematics Total standard scores.
- The Total Composite Score represents an average of the Reading Total, Language Total, Mathematics Total, Social Studies, and Science standard scores.
- Percentage of enrolled students that participated in the assessment:  
Grade 3 (98%); grade 5 (99%); grade 8 (99%); grade 11 (94%)
- The additional subtest scores for grade 11 are as follows:

#### Reading

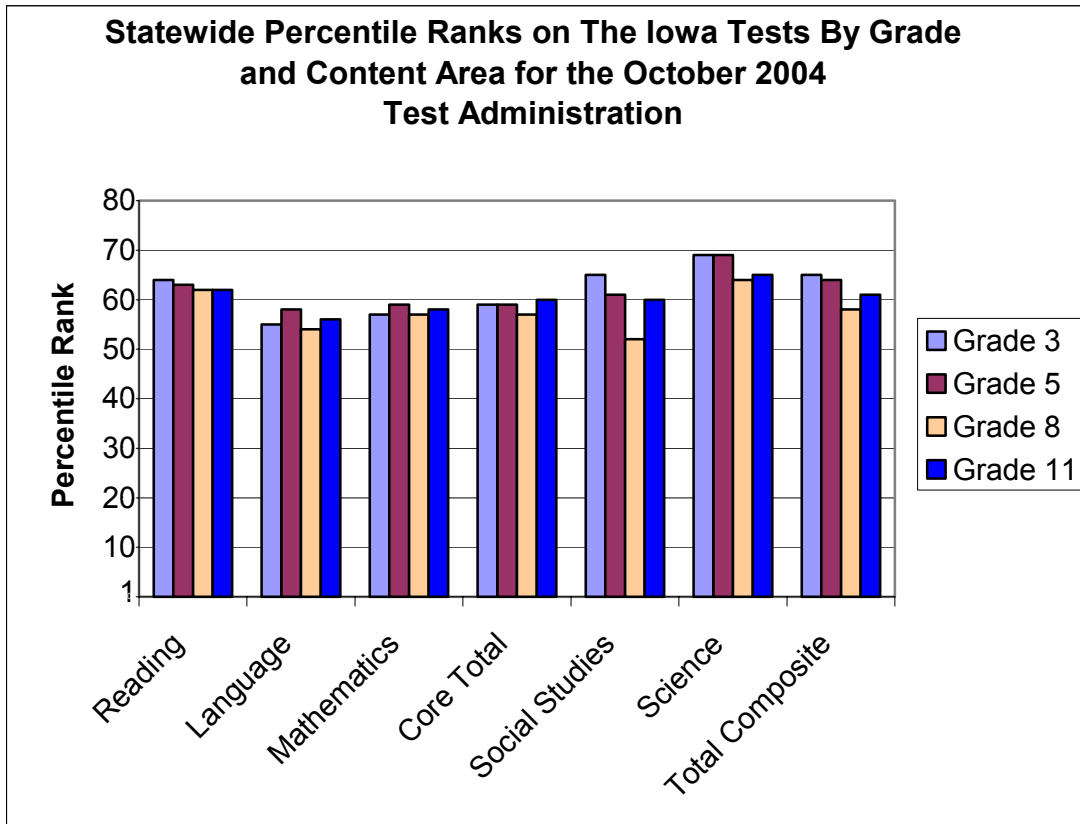
Vocabulary	57
Reading Comprehension	62

#### Language

Spelling	52
Revising Written Materials	56

### Mathematics

Concepts & Problem Solving	60
Computation	49



### Considerations

- On a norm-referenced test the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile represents the national average.
- The administration of The Iowa Tests establishes baseline data for the new norm-referenced test in Utah. Scores from subsequent administrations of The Iowa Tests will be compared to this baseline.
- Scores obtained on The Iowa Tests should not be compared to previous scores obtained on the SAT 9 test because the reference group (the student cohorts) and the norming study dates are different.

- Although The Iowa Tests do not directly reflect mastery of the Utah Core Curriculum, the tests are constructed to correspond to commonly accepted goals of instruction at the national level. Still, Utah's criterion-referenced tests (CRTs) remain the best measure of the mastery of the Utah Core Curriculum. Even though The Iowa Tests' content skills and objectives overlap with the Utah Core Curriculum, differences exist in some content areas, such as social science.
- The Iowa Tests' percentile rank is a norm-referenced score that provides a direct comparison to the achievement of students in the national standardization group. For example, if a student earned a percentile rank of 72 on the science test, it means she scored higher than 72 percent of the students in the group with which she is being compared.
- The percentile rank score should not be confused with the percent correct score, which is an indication of the percentage of items answered correctly by a student.